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The President's Daily Brief

18 September 1969

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~~*Top Secret*~~

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EGYPT

Nasir last week again resorted to his time-honored means of keeping disgruntled military elements off balance--another purge of high-ranking officers. 50X1

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JAPAN

The outline of a purported white paper on defense policy, possibly leaked to test popular reaction, has just appeared in a Tokyo newspaper. It calls for Japan to develop its self-defense capability to the point where it could meet any threat except "all-out war," in which case it would have to depend on the US nuclear retaliatory capability.

We expect some hot and heavy public debate on the draft paper. Although the Japanese people are gradually moving closer to government views on defense, opposition forces will raise the specter of resurgent militarism. Critics are likely to zero in on the designation of Communist China as a threat

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to its non-nuclear neighbors, as well as on the strong implication that Soviet air and naval activity near Japan is a threat. Earlier attempts to publish a defense policy paper failed because of opposition charges that designation of any country as a threat would be a hostile act in violation of Japan's "peace" constitution.

The appearance of the white paper coincides with growing public debate over the role of Japan's "self-defense" forces and the US-Japan defense relationship. The timing of the paper may be aimed in part at reassuring the US that Tokyo intends to devote greater attention to military matters following the reversion of Okinawa to Japan.

WEST GERMANY

Voters will elect a new parliament on 28 September, and it appears that Kiesinger's Christian Democratic Union will maintain its position as the leading party. 50X1

A great many voters are still telling pollsters they are undecided, but in past elections the CDU picked up the largest portion of previously uncommitted votes.

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EL SALVADOR - HONDURAS

Both nations are still shilly-shallying around instead of trying to patch up their quarrel, and as a result both are experiencing considerable domestic unrest. Their fellow members in the Central American Common Market have tried to induce reconciliation, and they will try again during the UN General Assembly.

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